

City Works

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A NEWSLETTER FROM THE CITY OF BURLINGTON

CityWorks is published bi-monthly

2005-2006 City Budget:

An Examination of Revenues and Expenditures

Adoption of a City budget is a year-long process involving not only department heads, but also many of their management staff. The process includes the recognition of needs, projection of revenues, and the establishment of priorities resulting in a number of difficult decisions. Every year it appears there are unlimited needs but very limited resources. The budget is broken down into three primary areas: General Fund, Water and Sewer Enterprise Fund and the Stormwater Enterprise Fund. The General Fund includes funding for Police, Fire, Recreation and Parks, Public Works, Engineering/Traffic Control, Planning/Inspections, Legal, Finance, Human Resources/Health Services, Information Technology and General Administration. The Water and Sewer Enterprise Fund includes all water and sewer operations such as repair and construction, plants and facilities, water source protection, utility laboratories and composting. The Stormwater Enterprise Fund reflects the state mandate that all Phase II cities initiate a formal stormwater plan.

General Fund

The General Fund budget is \$40,376,106, which is balanced utilizing the same tax rate of the 2004-2005 budget of \$.555 per \$100 valuation.

While the cost of operations increased, it appears we will be able to offset those costs as a result of revenue increases. Revenues reflect some positive economic recovery for our community in the form of ad valorem tax revenues, sales tax revenues and interest income revenues. The expense side of the General Fund budget does not reflect a true expansion budget even though increases do exist. Inflation continues to drive up the cost of health insurance, energy costs and the replacement cost for essential City vehicles. The elimination of state and federal grants has resulted in the need to fund three present police positions. The substantial growth in our City resulted in early 2005 approval of development related staff in Engineering and Building Inspections. Funding for those positions is included in this budget. The ad-

dition of six positions in the Fire Department is also included. These six positions will result in a two-man company being assigned to Station #4 to respond to the increasing suppression and the increasing number of EMT calls. These six staff positions will later be transferred to a future sixth station when growth requires that construction. Capital expenses in the budget include replacement vehicles for Police and Public Works, an increase in street resurfacing funds and the update of Information Technology equipment.

Water and Sewer Enterprise Fund

The Water and Sewer budget of \$20,198,500 is balanced based on a 5% increase in water and sewer rates. The Water and Sewer Fund is a consumption-driven fund. Industrial consumption of services dipped dramatically during the 2004-2005 fiscal year. A combination of industrial plant closings and scaling back of existing operations resulted in a 5% decrease for water and 7% decrease system wide for sewer. If it had not been for the expected revenues from the sales of water to Greensboro, the City would be facing a double figure water and sewer increase. The budget certainly contains no frills. Increased operational costs in health care, energy costs and the replacement of aging infrastructure highlight the budget. It should be noted that no funds are being recognized in this budget for possible wastewater plant updates resulting from the Jordan Lake Nutrient Study.

Stormwater Fund

The Stormwater Fund budget is \$420,000. This program is a result of the City's mandatory compliance of the new National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Phase II stormwater regulations. In order to meet these established stormwater permit requirements, a stormwater fee of \$2.00 per month is needed for all water and/or sewer utility customers in the corporate city limits of Burlington. The projected revenues from this fee would fully finance this enterprise fund. The City is required by law to develop, implement and enforce a stormwater program to reduce the discharge of pollutants to the maximum extent practicable to protect water quality and satisfy the appropriate water quality regulations of the Clean Water Act.

Lawn Maintenance



Any growth of weeds or other vegetation to twelve (12) inches, or any rank vegetable growth that exhales unpleasant and noxious odors or that may conceal filthy depos-

its or harbor insects or any other offensive matter or thing, whether the same be upon occupied or vacant premises.

When any public nuisance is found to exist on any property within the City, the Inspection Department shall notify the owner or occupant of the premises where the nuisance is located that conditions exist that constitute a public nuisance and unless the condition is abated within ten (10) days from the mailing the notice and the costs of abatement shall constitute a lien against the premises in accordance with the other provisions. If any such lot is owned by more than one (1) person, the notice may be mailed to any person having any estate or interest in the lot and such service shall be deemed sufficient compliance. If any such lot, is owned by a corporation, the notice may be mailed to any local officer or agent of the corporation. If said notice is not accepted or received by the owner, posting "Notice of Violation" on said property shall constitute notice.

City of Burlington Sanitation Division Holiday Schedule *September - December 2005*

Labor Day **Monday, September 5, 2005**

Will collect Monday route on Tuesday, September 6.
Will collect Tuesday route on Wednesday, September 7.
No recycling collection change.

Thanksgiving Thursday & Fri., November 24 & 25, 2005

Will collect Thursday route on Wednesday, November 23.
Will collect Friday route on Wednesday, November 23.
No yard waste or bulk trash collection on Thur. & Fri. routes.
Recycling on Thursday route will be collected on Friday.
Recycling on Friday route will be collected on Friday—finishing on Saturday if necessary.

Christmas **Friday & Monday, December 23 & 26, 2005**

Will collect Thursday route on Wednesday, December 21
Will collect Friday route on Thursday, December 22
Will collect Monday route on Tuesday, December 27.
Will collect Tuesday route on Wednesday, December 28.
No yard waste or bulk trash collection the week of Dec. 26.
No recycling collection change.



Reduce, Reuse, Recycle!

The City of Burlington is working on a public awareness program to promote recycling in the City. To learn why recycling is so important read the facts below:

- Call 'em facts, stats, quibs, or little ditties, but here are the ins and outs of recycling in North Carolina.
- If one-third of North Carolina's households sent junk mail reduction cards to the Mail Preference Association, it would save North Carolina local governments almost \$1.3 million in disposal fees per year.
- Making products from recovered materials instead of virgin materials saves energy. For aluminum cans, the energy saved is more than 90 percent, for newspaper 40 percent and for steel, 60 percent.
- North Carolinians recycle 68 pounds of materials a second. That's impressive! But we throw away 679 pounds of trash a second. That's almost 10 times what we recycle.
- Recycling in North Carolina is a job creator and a growing part of our state's economy. Recycling employs more than 13,000 North Carolinians, and recycling jobs have increased about 48 percent in the last 10 years.
- With the amount of trash North Carolinians throw away, we would fill enough Dumpsters to line the length of N.C.'s Interstate 40 more than six times in one year. That's 2,555 miles of Dumpsters each year.
- Steel is one of the most recycled materials with a 64 percent national recycling rate. Many steel products are recycled at a high rate in North Carolina, though less than 20 percent of steel cans were recovered in 2001.
- Nearly all the steel made in the United States and in the world is made from scrap.
- Each month, North Carolinians throw out glass that would fill up more than 13 miles worth of tractor-trailers lined up end-to-end. That's a half marathon of tractor-trailers each month!
- Glass bottles can be used hundreds of times over to make new bottles. North Carolina has three glass plants capable of consuming thousands of tons of "cullet" or recovered glass.
- Newspaper and corrugated cardboard are the highest recycled types of paper.
- In North Carolina, we recycle 57 percent of all newspaper and 50 percent of all cardboard.



*City of Burlington sanitation truck
with RE3 logo.*

*Unless stated, all facts are from DPPEA or DENR 2003 data.